

Nevada Department of Agriculture
350 Capitol Hill Avenue, Reno NV 89502
March, 2005

POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING NOXIOUS WEED ABATEMENT
STATUTES NRS 555.005-201

A noxious weed is a plant that has been defined as a pest by law or regulation. Both Nevada and the U.S government maintain lists of plants that are considered threats to the well being of the state or the country. The two lists differ significantly.

In Nevada, The Nevada Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as "the Department") will recommend plants for listing after consultation with outside experts and a panel composed of Nevada Weed Action Committee members. If a plant is found to probably be "detrimental or destructive and difficult to control or eradicate" (Nevada Revised Statute 555.005), the Department, with approval of the Board of Agriculture, will designate the plant as a noxious weed.

Chapter 555 sections .005-.217 of the Nevada Revised Statutes authorize the Department to investigate noxious weeds and require land owners or occupants to control such weeds. This statutory duty requires a noxious weed policy which recognizes that weeds vary as to their potential and actual harm to Nevada's agriculture and environment. Overall noxious weed significance is the basis for determining what prevention or control activities are appropriate, at what level, and when and where those activities should be conducted.

- A. Noxious weed ratings are intended to be used as aids to inform land owners and managers and other interested persons as to a particular noxious weed's environmental, agricultural and biological significance, as well as its importance to the general public, and the action recommended by the Department to deal with the pest.
- B. Each pest rating represents the **Department's** view of the **statewide** importance of the noxious weed to the crops, livestock, public health, wildlife, water quality and beneficial uses of land in Nevada. **Local conditions may dictate more stringent action against a pest than recommended at a state level.**
- C. It is the Department's policy to use the "Noxious Weed Tier System" to determine what action is to be taken consistent with existing statutes which include authority for: the promulgation of quarantine, abatement for eradication and/or control; holding and inspecting; establishing weed control districts; and for other regulatory activities.

At the time that the Department lists a species, it will also give a rating of A, B, or C. These ratings reflect the **Department's view of the statewide importance of the noxious weed, the likelihood that eradication or control efforts would be successful, and the present distribution of noxious weeds within the state.** These lists will be in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC 555.010).

DEFINITIONS

"A" Weeds normally limited in distribution throughout the state; actively excluded from the state and actively eradicated wherever found; actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; control required by the state

"B" Weeds more widespread throughout the state; actively excluded where possible, actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; control required by the state in areas where populations are not well established or previously unknown to occur

"C" Weeds generally widespread throughout the state; actively eradicated from nursery stock dealer premises; abatement at the discretion of the state quarantine officer